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Reality vs. Niceties at the U. N.

U-2 and Eichmann Cases Are Called Heartening Intelligence Indicators

For the second time within weeks the United Nations faces a contest between the inescapable realities of present life and the outmoded diplomatic niceties of the 19th Century. Again, it is a case where conditions, facts, clash with a theory that was no doubt all right in a world of safety now long gone.

A little while ago, the Security Council was solemnly trying—and at length acquitting—the United States for the "crime" of sending a spy plane over the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union's charge—violation of its sovereignty—was gravely put, as though no other nation—and surely not the scrupulously nice apparatus of international communism—had ever operated espionage. And this in a world where espionage is as real and universal as is the desire of nations to keep alive.

Now Israel shortly goes before the U.N. to answer Argentina's complaint that her sovereignty, too, has been violated by the capture in Argentina by Israeli "volunteers" of the infamous Nazi Adolf Eichmann.

Here was a man charged with the systematic murder of 6 million Jews in the Hitler era. For 14 years the tireless Israelis had been on his track until at last they found him and took him off to Israel to be tried for crimes too horrible to be much discussed.

The Argentines had put no slightest finger of accusation or of punishment upon him, though he had come there illegally and illegally had remained. For the Security Council now to attempt to order his return to Argentina would be unthinkable for two reasons.

First, it would mean that Eichmann would continue to cheat the justice already long overdue. The U. N. has no courtroom, no prison, no power to punish, nor has any

other existing international instrumentality.

Second, the Israelis in any case would politely, but firmly tell the U. N. that they were very sorry but that Eichmann would face an Israeli court of justice all the same.

No conceivable Israeli government could ever allow this man out of its hands. Just as inconceivable, United States government could ever abdicate its responsibility to protect this nation from surprise attack. Upon all governments, therefore, lie duties which go beyond pleasing an international organization, the U. N., which is wholly unable to protect anybody from the fact that crime still goes on in this world.

So the true importance of this case is not related to the fine-spun legalism of the U. N., as the true importance of the U-2 case did not lie in such legalisms. The real point of the last U. N. trial was that it highlighted the enormous success of American counter-espionage in having penetrated for four years the skies over the lowering Iron Curtain.

The real point of the coming U. N. trial of Israel is its dramatization of a hitherto little-known fact—the spectacular efficiency of Israel's security and counter-espionage. This correspondent in a visit a few months ago saw a little of the system at work along Israel's troubled frontiers.

What was not seen then—and never will be—was the human form of the topmost

man in Israel's intelligence operations. This man is wisely kept nameless by the Israeli government as the British government keeps absolutely secret the identity of its very top security man. (The United States, in the person of Allen Dulles of the Central Intelligence Agency, makes its top man known.)

The top man in Israel's cloak-and-dagger establishment is truly cloaked, though carrying a not-dagger. The public will never know who he is; the Israelis will not disclose his identity even in the coming Eichmann trial.

Many of our wiser friends abroad were far from offended by the U-2 episode. On the contrary, they were immensely heartened to learn how successful American intelligence could be. All pro-Westerners can be heartened that the Israelis, as staunch Western allies, have shown that they, too, know how to do it in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and everywhere.

Fronzizi Indicates He Would Return Eichmann to Israel

MILAN, Italy, June 20 (AP).—Argentina's President Arturo Fronzizi says his government plans to send Adolf Eichmann back to Israel if the Israelis return the ex-Gestapo official to Argentina.

Mr. Fronzizi, on a state visit to Italy, told a group of Argentine newsmen yesterday that extradition would be granted if conditions of international law were met. He denied he had ever said Eichmann would be extradited to West Germany if handed back by Israel.

Jewish agents seized Eichmann in Buenos Aires last month and whisked him to Israel to be tried for major responsibility in the deaths of millions of Jews during World War II. The United Nations Security Council meets Wednesday to take up Argentina's complaint that Eichmann's capture violated Argentine sovereignty.

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